II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising administering an endoprosthesis, which includes a hydrogel, ~~into a urethra or a neck of a bladder of~~ for urethral bulking in a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, of a polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to [[90]] 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, 71 or 72~~, wherein the polymer is prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 15% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 80% by weight water or aqueous solution.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80, wherein the administering comprises injecting the hydrogel.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the injecting of the hydrogel comprises injections which include injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the urethra.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78 or 80 [[54]], further comprising the inclusion of cells.

18-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 10% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

30. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 7.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 3.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.6% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

35. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9. 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9. 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells comprise stem cells.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the urethra.

39-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9. 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the polymer is substantially comprised of cross-linked polyacrylamide.

53. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9. 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the polymer consists essentially of a polyacrylamide crosslinked with methylene bis-acrylamide.

54. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising directly injecting a hydrogel into ~~at least one of the conduits selected from the group consisting of a urethra and a neck of a bladder~~ a conduit for urethral bulking, wherein the hydrogel comprises water or aqueous solution and about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer having fewer than 50 ppm monomer units and having a complex viscosity of about 2 to [[90]] 50 Pas and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa, the polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 54, 79, or 81 [[72]] wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

58-61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 75% by weight water or aqueous solution.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the water is pyrogen free water.

64-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel has an elasticity modulus of about 5 to 150 Pa.

68. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the hydrogel has an elasticity modulus of about 10 to 100 Pa.

69. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80 ~~54, or 71~~, wherein the elasticity modulus and the complex viscosity are related by a factor of 5.8 to 6.4.

70.-77. (Canceled)

78. (New) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising administering an endoprosthesis, which includes a hydrogel, to increase resistance in a conduit for the treatment of urinary incontinence in a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, of a polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

79. (New) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising directly injecting a hydrogel into a conduit to increase the resistance in the conduit for the treatment of urinary incontinence, wherein the hydrogel comprises water or aqueous solution and about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer having fewer than 50 ppm monomer units and having a complex viscosity of

about 2 to 50 Pas and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa, the polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide.

80. (New) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising administering an endoprosthesis, which includes a hydrogel, as a bulking agent for the treatment of urinary incontinence in a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, of a polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

81. (New) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising directly injecting a hydrogel as a bulking agent for the treatment of urinary incontinence, wherein the hydrogel comprises water or aqueous solution and about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer having fewer than 50 ppm monomer units and having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa, the polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide.

82. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 85% by weight water or aqueous solution.

83. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 90% by weight water or aqueous solution.

84. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 95% by weight water or aqueous solution.